

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of raising serum DHEA levels in an individual, the method comprising applying a therapeutically effective amount of a magnesium-containing composition to the individual's skin, the magnesium-containing composition comprising about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, a solvent, a gelling agent and glycerin; and further wherein the magnesium-containing composition is substantially free of sodium ions and sulfate ions.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the gelling agent is a cellulose.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the cellulose is methyl cellulose.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the solvent is water.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the magnesium-containing composition comprises about 60 to 75 weight percent solvent.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the magnesium-containing composition comprises about 0.1 to 5 weight percent gelling agent.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the magnesium-containing composition comprises about 0.1 to 5 weight percent glycerin.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the magnesium-containing composition further comprises one or more additives selected from the group consisting of soaps, perfumes and dyes.

11. (Currently amended) A method of raising serum DHEA levels in an individual, the method comprising applying a therapeutically effective amount of a magnesium-containing composition to the individual's skin, the magnesium-containing composition comprising about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, about 60 to 75 weight percent water, about 0.1 to 5 weight percent methyl cellulose and about 0.1 to 5 weight percent glycerin; and further wherein the magnesium-containing composition is substantially free of sodium ions and sulfate ions.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A composition for the transdermal absorption of magnesium comprising:

- (a) about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride;
- (b) about 60 to 75 weight percent water;
- (c) about 0.1 to 5 weight percent of a gelling agent; and
- (d) about 0.1 to 5 weight percent glycerin;

wherein the composition is substantially free of sodium ions and sulfate ions.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein the gelling agent is a cellulose.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising measuring the level of DHEA, DHEA-S or magnesium in the individual prior to applying the magnesium-containing composition to the individual's skin.

19. (New) A method of raising serum DHEA levels in an individual, the method comprising:

- (a) measuring the level of DHEA, DHEA-S or magnesium in the individual; and

(b) applying a therapeutically effective amount of a magnesium-containing composition to the individual's skin, the magnesium-containing composition comprising about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, a solvent, a gelling agent and glycerin.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the magnesium-containing composition consists essentially of about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, a solvent, a gelling agent and glycerin.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the magnesium-containing composition consists essentially of about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride, about 60 to 75 weight percent water, about 0.1 to 5 weight percent methyl cellulose and about 0.1 to 5 weight percent glycerin.

22. (New) The composition of claim 14, consisting essentially of:

- (a) about 25 to 35 weight percent magnesium chloride;
- (b) about 60 to 75 weight percent water;
- (c) about 0.1 to 5 weight percent of a gelling agent; and
- (d) about 0.1 to 5 weight percent glycerin.